

## **DOE Weekly Field Memo – February 24, 2010**

### **From the Department of Education:**

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- VTVLC offers Summer/Credit Recovery Online Courses
- Arts Education Spring Conference
- Free & Reduced Lunch Eligibility Report

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### **From the Vermont Teacher Diversity Initiative:**

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- Minority Educator Recruitment Event in Burlington

### **From the VTNEA:**

- New England Staff Development Council Inaugural Conference

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### **Memo from the Commissioner: Letter of Support/Commitment on Broadband Connectivity**

#### **Audience: Technology Coordinators, Superintendents, Principals**

The department is currently working with a number of state agencies to submit, on behalf of all K-12 schools, an application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). This program will provide significant ARRA funding for the development of robust broadband resources to community anchor institutions including K-12 schools. This memo from Commissioner Armando Vilaseca provides some instruction, and is accompanied by a template that can be used to edit, print and mail back to the department. The letter should be signed by the superintendent and returned by **March 8th**. It is crucial that we have as many letters returned as possible. View the complete letter from Commissioner Vilaseca, as well as a sample letter, at <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maindept.html#broadband>.

Contact: Peter Drescher, Education Technology Coordinator, at (802) 828-5149 or [peter.drescher@state.vt.us](mailto:peter.drescher@state.vt.us)

### **Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC) offers Summer/Credit Recovery Online Courses**

#### **Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Technology Coordinators**

VTVLC will be offering an online, four-week credit-recovery program that begins on June 21, 2010. This program allows students to pretest and identify specific content areas within the course to complete with the support of the teacher. All courses will be offered online and do not require the student to attend class in person.

VTVLC-trained teachers conduct the online classes, which are designed to equate to approximately 90 minutes of instruction per day (Monday through Friday). Students can take VTVLC Summer School courses any time, any place, allowing for greater flexibility in their summer plans. For details contact: Jeff Renard, Coordinator at (802) 885-8308 or [jrenard@vtvlc.org](mailto:jrenard@vtvlc.org), or at <http://vtvlc.org/contact.html>

DOE Contact: Peter Drescher, Education Technology Coordinator, at (802) 828-5149 or [peter.drescher@state.vt.us](mailto:peter.drescher@state.vt.us)

### **Arts Education Spring Conference**

#### **Audience: Art Educators, Educators Interested in Integrated Arts Curriculum**

The Vermont Alliance for Arts Education Spring Conference will take place at the Vermont College of Fine Arts on March 11-12, 2010. This conference is appropriate for arts educators as well as classroom

teachers seeking training in integrated arts. Thursday includes special sessions and the Arts Educator Awards Dinner. Friday features rigorous professional development in integrated arts, music, visual art, dance and theatre in each of three sessions. For more information and to register

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#vaae>

Contact: Gail Kilkelly, Coordinator for Arts Education, at (802) 828-6560 or [gail.kilkelly@state.vt.us](mailto:gail.kilkelly@state.vt.us)

### **Free & Reduced Lunch Eligibility Report**

#### **Audience: Business Managers, Principals, Superintendents**

The Annual Free and Reduced Price Eligibility Report for 2010 has been posted on the department's Child Nutrition Web page at [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_nutrition/school\\_nutrition/program\\_info.html#annual\\_report](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_nutrition/school_nutrition/program_info.html#annual_report). The annual report includes the number and percent of students eligible for free and reduced price meals in schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program.

**Contact:** Laurie Colgan, School Nutrition Coordinator, at (802) 828-5153 or [laurie.colgan@state.vt.us](mailto:laurie.colgan@state.vt.us)

### **From the U.S. Department of Education:**

#### **President Obama, Department of Education Announce Race to the Top High School Commencement Challenge**

##### **Audience: Superintendents, High School Principals**

The White House and the U.S. Department of Education announced recently the first annual Race to the Top High School Commencement Challenge, inviting public schools across the country to compete to have President Obama speak at their graduation this spring. Applications should be completed by students and must be submitted by a high school's principal to <http://www.WhiteHouse.gov/Commencement> no later than **Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m. EST**. Each school may submit only one application and high schools must be public to apply. Following the application deadline, six finalists will be selected by the White House and Department of Education. These schools will then be featured on the White House Web site and the public will have an opportunity to vote for the three schools they think best meet the President's goal. The President will select a national winner from these three finalists and visit the winning high school to deliver the commencement address to the class of 2010.

### **From the Vermont Legislature:**

#### **Public Hearing on the Consolidation of School Districts and Supervisory Unions**

##### **Audience: All**

The House and Senate Committees on Education public hearing on the consolidation of school districts and supervisory unions has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 11 of the Statehouse. Information on scheduled committee meetings and public hearings can be found at <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/schedule/schedule2.cfm>.

Contact: Cindy Lee, Commissioner's Assistant, at (802) 828-0770 or [cindy.lee@state.vt.us](mailto:cindy.lee@state.vt.us)

### **From the Department of Health:**

#### **2010-2011 Student Assistance Program Funding**

##### **Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Student Assistance Counselors**

Current Student Assistance Programs (SAP) grantee program directors and subrecipients/fiscal agents have been sent a letter regarding streamlined SAP funding for the 2010-2011 school year. This letter requires a response to the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs by May 1, 2010 in order to retain funding for existing programs. Program Directors and Fiscal Agents are expected to work with school principals to craft the response. At this time there is no plan to increase the grant amounts or make the funds available to new schools.

Additional information is available at: <http://healthvermont.gov/adap/sap/StudentAssistanceProgram.aspx>

Contact: Anne Van Donsel at the Vermont Department of Health at (802) 652-4142 or [avandon@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:avandon@vdh.state.vt.us)

### **From the Community High School of Vermont:**

#### **Two-Day Conference on the Habits of Mind**

##### **Audience: All**

March 22nd and 23rd, 2010 at the Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference Center, 870 Williston Road, Burlington. Art Costa and Bena Kallick, Cofounders and Directors of the Institute for the Habits of Mind,

will introduce us to the Habits of Mind, and why they provide a shift in perspective of what's important in learning. Traditionally, parents and educators are impressed with how many answers students know. Although the right answers are important, the critical attribute of efficacious human beings is not only having right answers or information, but also knowing how to act on it. With Habits of Mind, we focused on how students behave when they don't know the answer! The inclusive cost for conference registration and materials will be \$250. Registration is available at <https://spreadsheets.google.com/a/chsvt.org/viewform?formkey=dGZZSnBTZUdUejhQWTROQzdsY1ZlcGc6MA>. For more information visit <http://doc.vermont.gov/programs/educational-programs/habits-of-mind-conference>. Space is limited and will be filled on a first come-first served basis. Sponsored by the [Community High School of Vermont](#). Contact: Sheila Commo at [Sheila.commo@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:Sheila.commo@ahs.state.vt.us) or (802) 241-2273

**From the Vermont Teacher Diversity Initiative:**

**National Minority Careers in Education Expo in New York City**

**Audience: All Administrators**

The Vermont Teacher Diversity Initiative (VTDI) has secured a booth at the National Minority Careers in Education Expo in New York City to be held on Saturday, March 13th, 2010. Districts who are interested in sending representatives to conduct recruitment of teachers to intentionally diversify their staffs are encouraged to attend. The VTDI is covering the cost of the event; interested parties would only need to pay for their own travel and lodging in New York. The Burlington School District is sending its superintendent, several administrators, and some community members in order to conduct outreach. Space is provided to conduct interviews on site with potential candidates. Pre-registration is required. Contact: Jim Woodard, Statewide Teacher Diversity Coordinator, at (802) 540-1021 or [info@vtdsp.org](mailto:info@vtdsp.org)

**Minority Educator Recruitment Event in Burlington**

**Audience: All Administrators**

The Vermont Teacher Diversity Initiative (VTDI) is collaborating with the Burlington School District to create a minority educator recruitment event for Saturday, March 27th, 2010, to be held at the Davis Center at UVM. Districts that are interested in sending representatives to conduct recruitment of teachers to intentionally diversify their staffs are encouraged to attend. The VTDI is covering the cost of the event; interested parties would only need to come to Burlington. Pre-registration is required. Contact: Jim Woodard, Statewide Teacher Diversity Coordinator, at (802) 540-1021 or [info@vtdsp.org](mailto:info@vtdsp.org)

**From the VTNEA:**

**New England Staff Development Council Inaugural Conference**

**Audience: All**

Schools and districts spend considerable resources – both time and money – on professional development. The New England Staff Development Council's inaugural conference, "Are We Making a Difference: Assessing the Impact of Staff Development," features national expert Joellen Killion in an all-day work session for district leaders charged with planning and assessing professional development. On-line registration available by visiting: <http://ne-nsdc.org/>  
Contact: Sherry Gile, VTNEA at [sgile@vtnea.org](mailto:sgile@vtnea.org)

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**Weekly Field Memo is Online!**

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field\\_memo.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html). Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or [jill.remick@state.vt.us](mailto:jill.remick@state.vt.us).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.